

TRUenergy COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 2009

MEETING	TALLAWARRA COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP MEETING		MEETING NUMBER	4/2009
HELD AT	TRUENERGY TALLAWARRA SITE, WOLLONGONG		DATE	18 NOVEMBER 2009
PROJECT	TALLAWARRA			
ATTENDEES	Doug Prosser Cheryl Lappin Chris Brandis Rhonda Sikk Bill Sikk Rita Webb Andrew Knowlson Michael Andrews Renaë Riviere Mark Rigby Phil Bower Anthony Savenkov Debbie Walker Lloyd Townsend Sanjay Gupta Brendan Blakeley Mel Ronca Lucy Greig	Lake Illawarra Authority Shellharbour Council Illawarra Bird Observers Club Sea Bird Rescue Sea Bird Rescue Dapto Chamber of Commerce Duck Creek Catchment Group Conservation Volunteers Australia Conservation Volunteers Australia PCYC Illawarra Yacht Club TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy Elton Consulting (Facilitator) Elton Consulting (Note-taker: handover) Elton Consulting (Note-taker: handover)		
APOLOGIES	Graham Towers Michael Gray John McIntyre Robin Barclay Sarah Stent Graham Dowers	Department of Planning Rural Fire Service TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy TRUenergy		
DISTRIBUTION	To all invitees			
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	ACTION	DATE	
1.0	Welcome & Introductions – Brendan Blakeley, Elton Consulting			
	<i>The meeting commenced at 4.30pm. Brendan welcomed all to the last CLG meeting of 2009 and thanked members of the group for their participation throughout the year.</i> <i>Apologies were received from Graham Towers, Michael Gray, John McIntyre, Robin Barclay, Sarah Stent, and Graham Dowers.</i> <i>The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted; adoption was moved by Doug Prosser and seconded by Chris Brandis.</i>			
2.0	Power Station Works Update – Sanjay Gupta, TRUenergy			
	Sanjay Gupta made the following key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Tallawarra A power station continues to run as the most efficient gas fired power			

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	<p>station in Australia and the lowest greenhouse gas emitting power station among Australia's fossil fuel using power stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the August CLG meeting there have again been no environmental incidents or lost time events. • There was a major shut down in the week prior to the meeting to undertake maintenance activities and replace a section of pipework. • There is another outage planned during the Christmas / New Year period to undertake regular compliance related activities for Tallawarra A, to meet statutory requirements and safety regulations. • Overall, the plant is running well. For example, in October the gas turbine's availability was at 100%. 		
3.0	Site Maintenance Update – Lloyd Townsend, TRUenergy		
	<p>Lloyd Townsend made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral pig trapping and relocation has been conducted on the site in conjunction with the Cumberland Livestock Health and Pest Authority. There have been no further sightings of feral pigs. • Rabbit baiting has been carried out in conjunction with the Cumberland Livestock Health and Pest Authority with reasonable success. • Both tree planting areas are going extremely well. • Two stolen burnt out cars were removed from Yallah Bay Road. Illegally dumped rock along Yallah Bay Road has also been removed. • Fire fighting volunteers recently used the Tallawarra site to practice helicopter fire fighting techniques. • Participants of a recent bird watching race to raise money for charity or 'twich-a-thon' were admitted to the site to spot native birds. • Illawarra Vocational Services has continued mowing around the site and Yallah Bay Road. 		
4.0	Tallawarra Community Partnerships		
	<p>Brendan Blakeley introduced the following people representing some of Tallawarra's Community Partnerships to update the CLG on their projects in 2009:</p> <p><i>Michael Andrews and Renee Riviere, Conservation Volunteers Australia;</i> <i>Mark Rigby, Manager, Lake Illawarra PCYC;</i> <i>Rhonda and Bill Sikk, Australian Seabird Rescue;</i> <i>Phil Bower Illawarra Yacht Club.</i></p> <p>Presentation: Michael Andrews and Renee Riviere, Conservation Volunteers Australia</p> <p>Michael Andrews made the following key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) is a national not for profit organisation which was established in 1984. There are 24 offices in Australia and 4 in New Zealand. • CVA attracts and manages volunteers who work towards the betterment of the natural environment. 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Duck Creek Rehabilitation Project began in July 2008. CVA was introduced to the project through its existing relationship with TRUenergy at its other sites i.e. James White Island Reserve where CVA planted 75,000 trees. <p>Renee Riviere made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Duck Creek project, set up through CVA's partnership with TRUenergy was intended as a 2 year project, it's now in its second year. CVA has worked on the Duck Creek project 2 days per month. To date this has culminated in 147 volunteer days. Initially the project focussed on the removal of weeds including lantana, turkey rhubarb, plantain and purple top. In June volunteers planted 900 trees. In the last 12 months 75 kilograms of rubbish has been removed from the site. A launch event for the project which included tree planting was held in May which was attended by TRUenergy staff and local business and community representatives. A 1.5m tall fig tree was planted with the assistance of Cheryl Davis, local Aboriginal leader. CVA uses photographs taken at six month intervals to monitor progress of site works. CVA is also working with Landcare Illawarra to collect seeds from significant local and dislocated species. A seed collection day was held recently on Mt Brown in which 2 kilograms of seed (mainly from eucalypts and tea tree) were gathered and delivered to local nurseries for propagation and use on local bush regeneration sites. Seed collection of this sort is a large undertaking as, among other things, special licences are required and obtained to collect this type of seed. Most volunteers at the Duck Creek site are regulars; most are also local to the area. <p><u>Questions and comments</u></p> <p>Debbie Walker: Is the Duck Creek project on track to complete its aims?</p> <p>Michael Andrews: Yes</p> <p>CLG member: Will the seeds collected at Mt Brown be used on this site?</p> <p>Michael Andrews: The seeds collected with Landcare Illawarra at Mt Brown will not be ready in time for use on this site. An opportunity may exist to do some planting of this kind in the future.</p> <p>Presentation: <i>Mark Rigby, Manager, Lake Illawarra PCYC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lake Illawarra PCYC is located on the opposite side of the Lake from the Tallawarra site. The Health Helps program supported by TRUenergy aims to tackle childhood obesity and health and develop leadership skills. It is taken to local schools to help children learn more about the importance of healthy nutrition, an active lifestyle and build character and leadership skills through both theory and practical sessions that are interactive and fun. Local schools were identified to pilot the Health Helps program in and a work book for primary aged children was developed (includes recipes and a two week exercise and food diary). A Health Helps session was run at Lake South Primary School with 180 students from 	
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	<p>years 3-6. The day was run by PCYC staff and volunteers with the assistance of Debbie Walker from TRUenergy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day included sessions on the importance of healthy eating, nutrition and the food pyramid, fun nutritional games, (e.g. making fruit kebabs), traditional Aboriginal games, archery and junior boxing for fitness. A healthy lunch, a work book and a TRUenergy showbag (pencils, pedometer, water bottle, PCYC activity passes) were provided to each child. The PCYC has received positive feedback on the program. There is a focus on small schools close by to the Tallawarra site. The PCYC plans to take the program to Windang Public School, Mount Warrigal, Oak Flats next year. <p>Presentation: Rhonda Sikk and Bill Sikk, Australian Seabird Rescue Rhonda and Bill Sikk are volunteers with Australian Seabird Rescue (ASR) who rescue and rehabilitate injured seabirds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The partnership formed between TRUenergy and ASR has allowed ASR to visit schools with education kits and to conduct bird rescue in the local area. These activities are planned to continue. The current rescue focus is shearwaters, as conditions (winds, temperatures, etc) have led to high levels of exhaustion among these migrating birds. Rhonda and Bill have recently rescued their 500th pelican within the last 4 years. Since their last visit to the Tallawarra site Rhonda and Bill have rescued 25 pelicans, conducted 3 clean ups and collected 11 bags of rubbish. The costs of medications and other aspects of care for sick and injured seabirds can be quite high; for example, a pelican will eat more than a kilogram of fish per day. ASR does not currently have a vet that provides services on a voluntary basis. ASR works cooperatively with the NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service (WIRES). ASR can be contacted on 0431 282 238 or admin@seabirdrescue.org <p><u>Questions and comments:</u></p> <p>CLG member: What is the reason for the shearwaters' exhaustion?</p> <p>Rhonda Sikk: Uncertain. The shearwaters fly for thousands of kilometres and some of the factors that may contribute are unseasonably high temperatures, lack of food, struggling against head winds.</p> <p>CLG member: Has there been an oil slick?</p> <p>Rhonda Sikk: We have not heard of any spills in the area.</p> <p>CLG member: Do you conduct post mortems on deceased birds?</p> <p>Rhonda Sikk: We do not have the resources to conduct post mortems. However, in our experience the most common causes of death among pelicans include toxin poison, botulism or pneumonitis.</p> <p>CLG member: Where do you keep birds?</p> <p>RS: We have set up to care for birds at our home.</p>	
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	<p>Presentation: <i>Phil Bower from Illawarra Yacht Club</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Illawarra Yacht Club is a community based club with any proceeds being funnelled back into community programs. The Illawarra Yacht Club has run a two-fold program with funding provided by TRUenergy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A junior learnt to sail program for 6-12 year olds which is provided free of charge. A launch for the program was held last December. This program attracts 20-30 people on days it is run. The equipment used is older and requires maintenance; this is where much of the funding is used. Training a local team for yacht racing. The Australian titles were held on Lake Illawarra in January 2009. Funds are used for the maintenance and updating of racing equipment. TRUenergy's sponsorship has been a good opportunity for club members to learn about the power station and its performance and how it has improved water quality in the lake. <p>At the conclusion of the presentations Brendan Blakeley thanked all presenters and commented that each of the community programs appears to have had a productive year. Debbie Walker of TRUenergy also offered thanks to the community programs' representatives.</p>		
5.0	<p>Tallawarra Power Station Stage B – Anthony Savenkov, TRUenergy</p>		
	<p>Anthony Savenkov made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public exhibition period for Stage B is now completed and TRUenergy is reviewing submissions. No submissions were received from the public; all submissions received were prepared by agencies. TRUenergy is preparing responses to the submissions and conducting the necessary investigations to answer technical questions. Once ready, the responses will be posted on the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) website: http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=1554 <p>[By way of update TRUenergy is meeting with DoP to discuss the outcome of their review of the Submissions Report on Wednesday 10 February 2010].</p> <p><u>Questions and comments</u></p> <p>CLG member: Shellharbour Council has engaged a consultant to conduct studies on the airport site. The Shellharbour Council consultants and the Civil Aviation Authority (CASA) were to liaise with TRUenergy on plumes from the stack to ascertain whether the future management and operation of the airport was considered in the planning of Stage B. Has this contact been made and if so what was the result?</p> <p>This question was taken on notice.</p> <p>[Response: TRUenergy has completed modelling and an Aeronautical Impact Assessment using its consultants SKM and Ambidji. At this stage the opportunity to discuss this with CASA / ASA has not eventuated.]</p> <p>CLG member: The Shellharbour Council consultant was advised by CASA and Air Services</p>		

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	<p>Australia that CASA was putting a submission in to DoP? Has this been received?</p> <p>This question was taken on notice.</p> <p>[Response: Yes, DoP has received a submission from Air Services Australia, along with a comment from CASA. TRUenergy has received copies of these and has had them reviewed by its consultants. TRUenergy continues to request a meeting to gain further understanding of the issues and possible mitigations with the agencies concerned.]</p>		
6.0	Tallawarra Lands Update – Anthony Savenkov		
	<p>Anthony Savenkov made the following key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tallawarra Lands Concept Plan has received Major Project status by the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) and Director General's Requirements (DGRs) have been issued. These can be found on DoP major project website: http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/files/17118/Director-General%20Requirements%20for%20the%20Environmental%20Assessment.pdf Technical studies on flora and fauna, acoustic issues, heritage, bushfire, flooding, geotechnical considerations, etc were undertaken as required for the Local Environmental Study. Further, even more detailed studies will be carried out and reports prepared, reviewed by government agency experts, and eventually exhibited, for the Concept Plan development application. <p><u>Questions and comments</u></p> <p>CLG member: Will the local Council still have input now that the project has gone to the State Government for consideration?</p> <p>Anthony Savenkov: Wollongong Council will continue to be a key stakeholder in the planning of the site's future development.</p> <p>CLG member: Council was the consent authority for the rezoning. The Department of Planning is the consent authority for the Major Project Concept Plan development application. The development application needs to be consistent with Council's LEP zonings. Potential detailed development assessments/approvals to follow the Concept Plan application may be delegated to Council.</p> <p>CLG member: Why has the Tallawarra Lands project now been elevated to DoP?</p> <p>AS: The Tallawarra Lands development concept triggers a number of criteria for inclusion as a Major Project under Part 3A of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i>. These are detailed in the Tallawarra Concept Plan Application Preliminary Environmental Assessment available on the Department of Planning's Major Project website, and include, for instance, its sensitive coastal location, and its potential investment value.</p> <p>As anticipated, the Department of Planning's review has resulted in the project being deemed a Part 3A Major Project, and by pursuing a Concept Plan approval through the Major Projects office, TRUenergy is observing NSW planning law.</p> <p>CLG member: Will the proposed residential development be impacted by Tallawarra B?</p> <p>AS: Planning for the Tallawarra Lands site continues to assume that there will be two power plants on the site and makes appropriate provision for this. For instance, in response to Wollongong Council's draft Local Environmental Plan exhibition, TRUenergy requested a greater development buffer area over Tallawarra Lands around its power station site. Council modified its Local Environmental Plan accordingly.</p>		

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7.0	Discussion and Next Steps		
	TRUenergy thanked the Lake Illawarra Authority for the use of their hall for the meeting and the CLG members for their contributions to the Tallawarra projects, and to Elton Consulting team for their organisation of the CLG. Elton Consulting advised that Lucy Grieg will no longer be attending meetings to take the minutes. She will be replaced by Mel Ronca.		
9.0	Close – Next meeting		
	The meeting was closed at 5.30pm. Next meeting: 4.30pm Wednesday 17 February 2010, on site.		
If you have any questions in relation to these minutes please contact Brendan Blakeley at Elton Consulting. Tel: 02 9387 2600 Fax: 02 9387 2557 Email: brendan@elton.com.au			